

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for creating a demand-based market for products which are purchased and sold by a plurality of dealers and are provided by a plurality of suppliers, comprising the steps of:

~~collecting inventory information on a recurring basis for each of a plurality of product classes from each of a plurality of said dealers, the amount of the products within the product classes that each of the plurality of dealers currently has in inventory,~~

~~establishing an inventory profile for each of the plurality of dealers of product, the inventory profile including an optimal stocking level based on a typical sale rate for that dealer for the product;~~

~~for each dealer, determining a current individual dealer demand for one or more of said product classes based on said dealer inventory information and the inventory profile of said dealer;~~

~~determining aggregate dealer demand for said respective product classes by combining the current individual dealer demand amounts of the dealers having a demand for the respective product classes,~~

~~for each of said product classes, determining market making potential of said product class by comparing the corresponding aggregate dealer demands of said product classes to a threshold set of values for determining the ones of said product classes which have said demand exceeding said threshold values,~~

~~determining if sufficient supply of the product exists for each of said determined product classes to create a demand driven market by identifying potential suppliers of the product classes having market making potential,~~

~~scheduling a demand driven market for each of the product classes having market making potential if the aggregate dealer demand is greater than the demand threshold and~~

~~where sufficient supply has been determined;~~

~~for each said market, notifying the ones of said dealers who have a demand for the product class of the market and the potential suppliers of the product that a demand driven market has been scheduled.~~

establishing an inventory profile for each of the plurality of dealers of the products, the inventory profile including an optimal stocking level based on a typical sale rate for that dealer for each of the products;

collecting inventory information on a recurring basis from each of a plurality of said dealers to determine the amount of the products in each product class that each of the plurality of dealers currently has in inventory,

after each collection of inventory information, determining current individual dealer demand of each product class for each dealer based on said dealer inventory information and the inventory profile of said dealer;

iteratively determining if a micro market exists for each of said product classes by:

determining if sufficient demand exists for a micro market of said product class by summing the current individual dealer demand of said product class for said dealers to determine if summed current dealer demand is greater than the threshold value of demand required to create a micro market for said product class;

when summed current dealer market demand for said product class is sufficient to create a micro market for said product class, then determining if sufficient supply of products within said product class exists to create a micro market by identifying the potential supply of said product class available from the plurality of suppliers and summing the amount of products in said product class that are available as supply and determining if current supply is greater than a threshold value of supply required to create a micro market for said product class;

when current dealer demand for said product class is greater than the threshold value of demand required to create a micro market, and current supply for said product class is greater than the threshold value of supply required to create a micro market, a demand driven micro market is created by scheduling the micro market and notifying the ones of said dealers who have a demand for the products within the micro market and the potential

suppliers of the products within the micro market the time for which a demand-driven micro market has been scheduled.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for creating a demand-based market for products as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step of scheduling a micro market comprises scheduling a plurality of markets for said product classes.

4. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for creating a demand-based market for products as recited in Claim 1 including a step of offering the units of said supply of products for each said ~~designated~~ micro market to the dealers who have demand for the corresponding product class.

5. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for creating a demand-based market for products as recited in Claim 1 wherein said inventory profile is defined by the corresponding dealer.

6. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for creating a demand-based market for products as recited in Claim 1 wherein said inventory profile is based on a sales history of the corresponding dealer.

7. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for creating a demand-based market for products as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step of collecting inventory information is performed on a periodic time basis.

8. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for creating a demand-based market for products as recited in Claim 1 wherein said suppliers include dealers who have products in inventory which the dealer has deemed to be for sale at wholesale.

9. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for creating a demand-based market for products as recited in Claim 1 wherein said products are used automobiles.

10. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for creating a demand-based market for products as recited in Claim 1 wherein said suppliers include automobile lease companies.

11. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for creating a demand-driven market for products which are purchased and sold by a plurality of dealers and are provided by a plurality of suppliers, comprising the steps of:

~~collecting inventory information on a recurring basis for each of a plurality of product classes from each of a plurality of said dealers, the inventory information including the amount of the products within the product classes that each of the plurality of dealers currently has in inventory,~~

~~for each said dealer, determining a current individual dealer demand for one or more of said product classes based on said dealer inventory information and an inventory profile of said dealer, said inventory profile including the number of at least one product class among said plurality of product classes each of the plurality of dealers optimal stocking level based on a typical sales rate for that dealer for the class of product,~~

~~determining aggregate dealer demand by aggregating said demands respectively for said product classes,~~

~~collecting supply information from said suppliers for a plurality of said product classes,~~

~~for each of said product classes, determining market making potential of said product class by comparing the corresponding supply and demand to a threshold set of values for determining the ones of said product classes which have said supply and said demand exceeding said threshold values,~~

~~scheduling a market for each of the product classes that are determined to have market making potential, and~~

~~for each product class having market making potential, notifying the ones of said dealers who have said demand for the product class and the suppliers of the product class that a demand driven market has been scheduled.~~

establishing an inventory profile for each of the plurality of dealers of the products, the inventory profile including the number of at least one product class among a plurality of product classes in an optimal stocking level based on a typical sale rate for that dealer for the product class;

collecting inventory information on a recurring basis from each of a plurality of said dealers to determine the amount of the products in each product class that each of the plurality of dealers currently has in inventory,

after each collection of inventory information, determining current individual dealer demand of each product class for each dealer based on said dealer inventory information and the inventory profile of said dealer;

iteratively determining if a micro market exists for each of said product classes by:

determining if sufficient demand exists for a micro market of said product class by summing the current individual dealer demand of said product class for said dealers to determine if summed current dealer demand is greater than the threshold value of demand required to create a micro market for said product class;

when summed current dealer market demand for said product class is sufficient to create a micro market for said product class, then determining if sufficient supply of products within said product class exists to create a micro market by identifying the potential supply of said product class available from the plurality of suppliers and summing the amount of products in said product class that are available as supply and determining if current supply is greater than the threshold value of supply required to create a micro market for said product class;

when current dealer demand for said product class is greater than the threshold value of demand required to create a micro market, and current supply for said product class is greater than the threshold value of supply required to create a micro market, a demand driven micro market is created by scheduling the micro market and notifying the ones of said dealers who have a demand for the products within the micro market and the potential

suppliers of the products within the micro market the time for which a demand-driven micro market has been scheduled.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for creating a demand-driven market for products as recited in Claim 11 wherein said step of scheduling the micro [[a]] market comprises scheduling a plurality of micro markets for said product classes.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for creating a demand-driven market for products as recited in Claim 11 including a step of offering the ~~units of said~~ supply of products for each ~~said designated~~ micro market to the dealers who have demand for the corresponding product class.

14. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for creating a demand-driven market for products as recited in Claim 11 wherein said inventory profile is defined by the corresponding dealer.

15. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for creating a demand-driven market for products as recited in Claim 11 wherein said inventory profile is based on a sales history of the corresponding dealer.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for creating a demand-driven market for products as recited in Claim 11 wherein said suppliers include dealers who have products in inventory which the dealer has deemed to be for sale at wholesale.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for creating a demand-driven market for products as recited in Claim 11 wherein said products are used automobiles.

18. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for creating a demand-driven market for products as recited in Claim 11 wherein said suppliers include automobile lease companies.

19. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for creating a demand-driven market for products as recited in Claim 11 wherein said step of collecting inventory information is performed on a periodic time basis.

20-33. (Canceled)